

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows. For the Examiner's convenience, all of the claims whether amended or not are repeated herein below.

D1 1. (Amended) A liquid-cooled casting die for a continuous billet casting comprising:

a form-giving casting die body (1) having at least one broad side wall with a pouring-surface for receiving molten metal and defining a meniscus region (3) and a cooling-surface in contact with a cooling bath, the pouring-surface and the cooling-surface defining a thickness,

wherein the casting die body (1) has a cooling zone in the meniscus region (3) with a heat flow rate of 5-40% greater than the heat flow rate in adjacent regions of the casting die body (1).

2. (Amended) The casting die body (1) as recited in claim 1, wherein the form-giving casting die body is made of copper or a copper alloy.

3. (Amended) The casting die body (1) as recited in claim 1, further comprising a die cavity (2) defined by two broad-side walls situated opposite each other and two narrow-side walls, the narrow-side walls forming a cross-section of the die cavity; said broad-side walls connected to a base and forming the meniscus region (3).

4. (Amended) The casting die body (1) as recited in claim 3, wherein the cross-section of the die cavity (2) at a first end is greater than at a second end.

5. (Amended) The casting die body (1) as recited in claim 4, wherein the broad-side walls further define a funnel running from the first end to the second end.

6. (Amended) The casting die body (1) as recited in claim 1, wherein the cooling zone extends to cover an area that is at least 20% more than the meniscus region (3).

7. (Amended) The casting die body (1) as recited in claim 6, wherein the cooling zone extends to cover an area that is 30-60% more than the meniscus region (3).

8. Cancelled.